

What is claimed is:

1. A method of determining resource placement, comprising steps of:
  - determining a set of business objectives for one or more candidate locations;
  - developing one or more objective measurements for each business objective;
  - performing value chain analyses for a product or service to be provided, thereby determining what types of resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;
  - developing cost factors pertaining to placing the determined resources in the candidate locations;
  - applying computations that consider the business objectives, according to the developed objective measurements, along with the developed cost factors, to select a particular location from among the candidate locations; and
  - assigning the determined resources to the particular location.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the applying step further comprises the step of estimating and accounting for any lag time characteristics discovered while performing the value chain analyses.
3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the assigned resources are information technology personnel.
4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the assigned resources comprise monetary investments in the particular location.

1        5.        A method of analyzing resource placement, comprising steps of:  
2                identifying a plurality of candidate locations for placement of resources;  
3                identifying a plurality of criteria with which a decision is to be made for placement of the  
4 resources;  
5                selecting weights that may be used in computations for reflecting business objectives of a  
6 company for which the decision is to be made;  
7                creating a product profile that specifies values for first selected ones of the identified  
8 criteria;  
9                creating a geography profile for each of the identified candidate locations, where each  
10 geography profile specifies location-specific values for second selected ones of the identified  
11 criteria; and  
12                using the values specified in the product profile, the values specified in the geography  
13 profiles, and the weights to compute one or more location-specific resource placement scores for  
14 each of the candidate locations.

1        6.        The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of selecting one of the  
2 candidate locations using the computed location-specific resource placement scores.

1        7.        The method according to Claim 6, further comprising the step of placing the resources in  
2 the selected one of the candidate locations.

1 8. The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the steps of:  
2 selecting a plurality of the candidate locations using the computed location-specific  
3 resource placement scores; and  
4 placing the resources in the selected plurality of candidate locations.

1 9. The method according to Claim 5, wherein:  
2 a single candidate location is identified instead of a plurality thereof;  
3 a single geography profile is created for this single candidate location; and  
4 the using step uses the values specified in the product profile, the values specified in the  
5 single geography profile, and the weights to evaluate how suitable the single candidate location is  
6 for the placement of the resources.

1 10. The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of defining objective  
2 measurements for the identified criteria.

1 11. The method according to Claim 10, further comprising the step of using the defined  
2 objective measurements when specifying the location-specific values in the geography profiles.

1 12. A system for assigning resources, comprising:  
2 means for determining a set of business objectives for one or more candidate locations;  
3 means for developing one or more objective measurements for each business objective;  
4 means for performing value chain analyses for a product or service to be provided, thereby

determining what types of resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;  
means for developing cost factors pertaining to placing the determined resources in the  
candidate locations;  
means for applying computations that consider the business objectives, according to the  
developed objective measurements, along with the developed cost factors, to select a particular  
location from among the candidate locations; and  
means for assigning the determined resources to the particular location.

13. A computer program product for analyzing resource placement, the computer program  
product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising computer-readable  
program code means for carrying out steps of:

identifying a plurality of candidate locations for placement of resources;  
identifying a plurality of criteria with which a decision is to be made for placement of the  
resources;  
selecting weights that may be used in computations for reflecting business objectives of a  
company for which the decision is to be made;  
creating a product profile that specifies values for first selected ones of the identified  
criteria;  
creating a geography profile for each of the identified candidate locations, where each  
geography profile specifies location-specific values for second selected ones of the identified  
criteria; and  
using the values specified in the product profile, the values specified in the geography

15 profiles, and the weights to compute one or more location-specific resource placement scores for  
16 each of the candidate locations.

1 14. A method of providing a resource placement determination service, comprising steps of:

2 identifying a plurality of candidate locations for placement of resources;

3 identifying a plurality of criteria with which a decision is to be made for placement of the  
4 resources;

5 creating a product profile that specifies values for first selected ones of the identified  
6 criteria;

7 creating a geography profile for each of the identified candidate locations, where each  
8 geography profile specifies location-specific values for second selected ones of the identified  
9 criteria;

10 using the values specified in the product profile and the values specified in the geography  
11 profiles to compute one or more location-specific resource placement scores for each of the  
12 candidate locations; and

13 charging a fee for carrying out one or more of the steps of identifying the plurality of  
14 candidate locations, identifying the plurality of criteria, creating the product profile, creating each  
15 of the geography profiles, and using the values.

1 15. A method of providing a resource placement validation service, comprising steps of:

2 identifying a location that has been selected for placement of resources;

3 identifying a plurality of criteria pertaining to placement of the resources in an arbitrary

4 location, as if the identified location had not been selected;  
5 creating a product profile that specifies values for first selected ones of the identified  
6 criteria;  
7 creating a geography profile for the selected location, where the geography profile  
8 specifies location-specific values for second selected ones of the identified criteria;  
9 using the values specified in the product profile and the values specified in the geography  
10 profile to compute one or more location-specific resource placement scores for the selected  
11 location; and  
12 charging a performance fee for carrying out one or more of the steps of identifying the  
13 location, identifying the plurality of criteria, creating the product profile, creating the geography  
14 profile, and using the values.

1 16. The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the steps of:  
2 making a recommendation, based on the one or more computed location-specific resource  
3 placement scores, as to the selected location; and  
4 charging a recommendation fee for carrying out the step of making the recommendation,  
5 where the recommendation fee may be in addition to, or in place of, the performance fee.